



## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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JESSE WHITE • Secretary of State

Dear Religious Leader,

This year faith communities in Illinois and across the nation will celebrate National Donor Sabbath on Nov. 13-15. On behalf of the more than 4,000 people who are waiting for organ transplants in Illinois, I invite you and your congregation to participate in raising awareness about organ and tissue donation.

As you know, the faith community makes a significant and lasting difference in the lives of countless individuals. Your participation in National Donor Sabbath is an opportunity to communicate to your congregation your faith's stance on the importance of organ and tissue donation. During the weekend of observance, we ask you to encourage members of your congregation to join the Illinois Secretary of State's Organ/Tissue Donor Registry.

Organ and tissue donation is a personal issue for me. My sister, Doris Ivy, benefited from a kidney transplant in 1991 after waiting for more than three years on a transplant list. Sadly, not everyone is so fortunate. Last year, approximately 300 Illinoisans died while waiting for a transplant. By recognizing the importance of donation, you and your congregation can help change this statistic.

Perhaps a member of your congregation has had experience with transplantation or organ and tissue donation. If so, I hope you will offer them an opportunity to share their story and experience during National Donor Sabbath.

Out of an abundance of caution due to COVID-19, my office has developed a virtual package to assist you in learning about and promoting this lifesaving initiative. Thank you for your consideration in participating in this year's National Donor Sabbath celebration.

If you have any questions, please call 800-210-2106 or visit our website at [www.lifegoeson.com](http://www.lifegoeson.com).

Sincerely,

*Jesse White*

Jesse White  
Illinois Secretary of State